

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2019

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on October 22, 2019, at 6:33 P.M., at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

Present were:

Gary Westmoreland, Chair

Cal Stiles, Member

Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Member

C.B. McKinnon, Member

Roy Dickey, Member

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk

Candy Anderson, Finance Director

Chairman Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. Clerk to the Board, Amanda Rhodes, recorded the minutes.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Modification of Agenda

Director McGee requested that the Nantahala Health Foundation Grant as referenced under the Director's Report be added to the New Business of the Agenda. Commissioner Dickey made a motion to add the Nantahala Health Foundation Grant to New Business and Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion, with all in favor to the modification.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner McKinnon made a motion to accept the Agenda, Commissioner Westmoreland 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda.

V. Public Forum

There were no Board or public comments or questions.

VI. Minutes September 17, 2019

The September 17, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes were approved, Commissioner Eichenbaum made a motion to accept, Commissioner Dickey 2nd the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the September 17, 2019 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VII. New Business

a. Food and Nutrition Education and Training Program

North Carolina's vision for its SNAP E&T program, called Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training Program. Is "Strengthening families and communities by creating opportunities that lead to living-wage jobs for sustainable growth.

VIII. Directors Report

Director McGee provided the Board with the Director's Report.

1. REAL Training

Director McGee discussed the October 1, 2019 REAL 10 Summit meeting with representatives from Blue Ridge Community College, Tri-County Community College, Western Carolina University, and the ten western DSS agencies.

2. NCFAST Certification Training

Four DSS employees are now certified as NCFAST trainers who will be able to train current and future employees. A training schedule is being developed to hopefully develop a pipeline of new potential employees.

3. Nantahala Health Foundation Grant

Director McGee discussed details regarding the grant that she submitted to Nantahala Foundation for funds to; 1) implement Safety Organized Practice (SOP) via a contract form developer UCDAVIS and establish two SOP at Tri-County Community College; 2) establish a Community Worker at DSS to facilitate SOP counties implementation of SOP; and 3) establish a Parent Coach Program for DSS clients at Tri-County Community College.

4. Tri County Community College

CCDSS is working with Tri-County College and NC DHHS to establish a Parent Navigator and Food and Nutrition Education and Training Program. The Parent Navigator is funded by DHHS and will be placed at the college and the Trainer is funded by DHHS and will be placed at DSS. The purpose of the program is to assist parents on food and nutrition benefits to obtain training and employment to become self-sufficient.

5. Medicaid Managed Care

Phase I was delayed and is now scheduled to be launched at the same time as Phase II on February 2, 2020. Open enrollment will take place from October 14, 2019 until December 13, 2019. Beneficiaries that do not respond will be “auto assigned” a plan beginning on December 13, 2019. The Health Plan coverage will begin February 2, 2020. The companies

covering Region 1 are Well Care, United Health Care, Healthy Blue, and AmeriHealth/Caritas. On February 2, 2020, DSS will no longer have any responsibility for Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation and will only manage NC Direct which is approximately 120 beneficiaries with low ridership history.

6. Legal Update

Child Support Court September 19, 2019:

Attorney Duncan discussed the DSS Court date September 19, 2019. There were 6 cases resolved by memorandum, 6 orders for arrest, 2 dismissals for compliance, 9 continuances for attorneys, 7 continuances for more information, 2 continued for defendant.

DSS Court October 2 and 3, 2019

Attorney discussed the DSS Court dates on October 2 and 3, 2019. There was 1 case closure, 19 cases resolved, 18 continuances for various reasons.

7. Audits and Reviews

Upcoming Audit and Reviews

- a. The Medicaid Single Audit Testing was completed on October 7-11, 2019. 94 cases Medicaid were audited with no errors found.

8. DSS Career Day

DSS held Career Day on October 8, 2019 with a professor from Western Carolina University to talk with staff about opportunities to further their education.

9. Energy Programs

Director McGee discussed the Crisis Intervention Program and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program that are scheduled to begin December 1, 2019.

10. Court Order Tracking

Court Orders reflected on the J Wise Report are up to date and withstanding a small number which are in the process of being drafted.

11. Safety Training

Sheriff Derrick Palmer is scheduled to provide Safety Training for the DSS on September 24, 2019. A revised Safety Policy and Manual are under revision and development to include several emergency situations such as medical emergencies, extreme weather situations, hostile and aggressive persons in the building, and other situations up to an including the need for building evacuations.

12. TVA Space

Minor adjustments are being explored to increase barriers between cubicles to reduce noise.

IX. Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the statistical report for September, 2019.

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M. with Commissioner Cal Stiles making a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Eichenbaum 2nd the motion and all in favor. The next DSS Board Meeting was rescheduled for 6:30 P.M. on November 19, 2019 at the Department of Social Services.

These minutes were approved by the DSS Board on November 21, 2019